

In the Claims

Kindly amend the claims and add new claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for managing environmental audit information comprising the steps of:
receiving environmental audit information;
accessing a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols;
associating said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record; and
storing said environmental audit record.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of restricting access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record and can add comments to said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.
3. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of enabling said quality assurance reviewer to designate the review status of said environmental audit record.
4. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing notification of said environmental audit record.
5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of associating one or more of said environmental audit records to form an audit log.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of environmental audit records are stored for a plurality of different facilities.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of environmental audit records are stored for a plurality of contacts.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing access to said environmental audit records via a hierarchical, expandable list.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said environmental audit record includes one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

10. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for the retrieval of said environmental audit records indexed by one or more selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

11. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing administrator access to said environmental audit records to interview, review, update, and modify said environmental audit record.

12. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said set of environmental audit protocols comprise safety regulations maintained by OSHA.

13. (currently amended) A method for managing environmental audit information comprising the steps of:

receiving environmental audit information;

accessing a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols;

associating said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record;

storing said environmental audit record; and

restricting access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record and can add comments to said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of enabling said quality assurance reviewer to designate the review status of said environmental audit record.

15. (original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of providing notification of said environmental audit record.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of associating one or more of said environmental audit records to form an audit log.

17. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein a plurality of environmental audit records are stored for a plurality of different facilities.

18. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein a plurality of environmental audit records are stored for a plurality of contacts.

19. (original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of providing access to said environmental audit records via a hierarchical, expandable list.

20. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said environmental audit record includes one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

21. (original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of providing for the retrieval of said environmental audit records indexed by one or more selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

22. (original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of providing administrator access to said environmental audit records to interview, review, update, and modify said environmental audit record.

23. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said set of environmental audit protocols comprise safety regulations maintained by OSHA.

24. (original) A system for managing environmental audit information comprising:

a user interface for receiving environmental audit information;

a data source interface programmed to access a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols and to associate said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record; and

a data source in communication with said data source interface for storing said environmental audit record.

25. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said data source interface is programmed to restrict access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record and can add comments to said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.

26. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said data source interface is further programmed said quality assurance reviewer to designate the review status of said environmental audit record.

27. (original) The system of Claim 24, further comprising the step of providing notification of said environmental audit record.

28. (currently amended) The system of Claim 24, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to associate one or more of said environmental audit records to form an audit log.

29. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein a plurality of audit records are stored for a plurality of different facilities.

30. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein a plurality of audit records are stored for a plurality of contacts.

31. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide access to said audit records via a hierarchical expandable list.

32. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said environmental audit record includes one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

33. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide for the retrieval of said audit records indexed by one or more selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

34. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide administrator access to said audit records to interview, review, update, and modify said environmental audit record.

35. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein said environmental audit protocol includes environmental regulations maintained by OSHA.

36. (original) A system for managing environmental audit information comprising:

a user interface for receiving environmental audit information;

a data source interface programmed to access a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols and to associate said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record; and

a data source in communication with said data source interface for storing said environmental audit record wherein said data source interface is programmed to restrict access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record and can add comments to said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.

37. (currently amended) The system of Claim 36, wherein said data source interface is further programmed for said quality assurance reviewer to designate the review status of said environmental audit record.

38. (original) The system of Claim 36, further comprising the step of providing notification of said environmental audit record.

39. (currently amended) The system of Claim 36, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to associate one or more of said environmental audit records to form an audit log.

40. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein a plurality of audit records are stored for a plurality of different facilities.

41. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein a plurality of audit records are stored for a plurality of contacts.

42. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide access to said audit records via a hierarchical expandable list.

43. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein said environmental audit record includes one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

44. (original) The system of Claim 43, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide for the retrieval of said audit records indexed by one or more selected from the group consisting of a facility, a contact, an author, an audit team, record dates, who created the audit record, who last edited the audit record, and comments.

45. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein said data source interface is further programmed to provide administrator access to said audit records to interview, review, update, and modify said environmental audit record.

46. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein said environmental audit protocol includes environmental regulations maintained by OSHA.

47. (new) A method for managing environmental audit information comprising the steps of:

- receiving environmental audit information;
- accessing a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols;
- associating said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record;
- storing said environmental audit record; and
- restricting access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.

48. (new) The method of Claim 47, wherein a plurality of environmental audit records are stored.

49. (new) The method of Claim 48, wherein a quality assurance reviewer can access and modify at least one of said environmental audit records, but cannot access or modify others of said environmental audit records.

50. (new) A system for managing environmental audit information comprising:
a user interface for receiving environmental audit information;

a data source interface programmed to access a predetermined set of environmental audit protocols and to associate said audit information with at least one of said environmental audit protocols to form an environmental audit record; and

a data source in communication with said data source interface for storing said environmental audit record wherein said data source interface is programmed to restrict access to said environmental audit record so that a quality assurance reviewer can access said environmental audit record, but cannot otherwise modify said environmental audit record.

51. (new) The system of Claim 50, wherein a plurality of audit records are stored.

52. (new) The system of Claim 51, wherein a quality assurance reviewer can access and modify at least one of said environmental audit records, but cannot access or modify others of said environmental audit records.